

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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KLEPPE URGES FEDERAL-STATE COOPERATION IN MANAGING WILDLIFE, NATURAL RESOURCES

Virtually every natural resource must be carefully managed in today's crowded and highly complex society but the management must be accomplished through close Federal-State cooperation, Secretary of the Interior Thomas S. Kleppe said in Sun Valley, Idaho today.

Addressing the Western Association of State Fish and Game Commissioners, Kleppe remarked that wildlife cannot be simply "left alone," whether it be predator animals, waterfowl, or endangered species. The work of management requires professionalism of high caliber, he said, and "it occurs in what has become a highly charged atmosphere of diverse and demanding constituencies."

Kleppe said wildlife managers at all levels must recognize that their constituency has broadened far beyond those who hunt and fish, to people who have never done either one, but who feel they have a stake as citizens in America's outdoor heritage.

Federal and State agencies must renew their efforts to work together to increase public knowledge of wildlife management, Kleppe said, "and continually strive to win public support for the sound practices and programs which are essential in maintaining our vital wildlife resources."

The text of Secretary Kleppe's remarks is attached.

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